

The Director Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Register

82-12562

18 October 1982

Dear Bob,

Here is the Times article mentioned in my recent cable.

Yours,

*Bill*

William J. Casey

Enclosure:

NYT Article, "U.S. to Pay  
for Upgrading Turkish  
Military Airfields"

The Honorable Robert Strausz-Hupe  
American Ambassador  
Ankara, Turkey

DCI  
EXEC  
REG

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
18 October 1982

## U.S. to Pay for Upgrading Turkish Military Airfields

Special to The New York Times

ANKARA, Turkey, Oct. 15 — The United States will pay for the modernization of 10 Turkish airfields so that they can be used by a variety of military planes, according to a Turkish Government statement released today.

The United States agreed to improve the airfields and install modern communications equipment during a meeting of Turkish and American defense officials here on Oct. 7 and 8. Although the statement issued today did not include details about the meeting, American and Turkish officials confirmed that the decision on the airfields had been made during the talks.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official said the Turkish Government would not be contributing to the cost of the airfield modernization. He said the upgraded airfields would only be used "in case of

necessity" by forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The statement said the group "dwelt further on the possibilities for cooperation in defense support and defense-related industry and on the need to modernize the Turkish armed forces in order to enable them to fulfill their NATO missions more effectively."

### Tour of Military Installations

After the meeting the United States delegation, headed by Richard N. Perle, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security, toured the military installations in eastern Turkey, including some of the airfields. American defense officials and military officers have been visiting airfields in eastern Turkey since an earlier meeting of Turkish and American officials last spring.

The visits to airfields, and some work that had begun on two of the fields, are seen here as the cause of a Communist-inspired campaign against Turkey's military administration. Two radio stations broadcasting from East Germany have been charging that the Turkish Government is preparing to allow American Rapid Deployment Forces intended for service in the Persian Gulf to use Turkish installations. Turkish officials have denied that, insisting that Turkey has no intention of taking any more responsibilities outside of NATO in the region.

In a recent statement, Foreign Minister Ilter Turkmen said that "Turkish-American relations have never been so good." His assessment is fully shared by the American Ambassador in Ankara, Robert Strausz-Hupe. Two weeks ago the chief of the United States Central Intelligence Agency, William J. Casey, visited Ankara for 36 hours during which he met with many high-ranking officials and the generals, including Defense Minister Haluk Bayulken.

Turkish and American sources confirmed that he discussed several "important matters," which also included Armenian terrorism against Turkish diplomats in foreign countries.

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